Continuous News Service Since 1881

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MIT Cambridge Massachusetts

Thursday, September 7,1978

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Today will be partly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers, temperatures varying from a low of 58-63 to a high in the upper 70's. Friday will be mostly sunny with a high in the 70's.

Technically, it begins next week. Actually, it began with the epic sigh of relief that could be sensed all over the U.S. right after Labor Day. Even before it arrives, Americans always manage to get into autumn. And no wonder. It is easily the most habitable season of the year.

Indeed, autumn deserves a hymn — and it has received far less tribute than it deserves. True, some mixed notices have come in over the centuries. Horace slandered autumn as a "dread" period - "harvestseason of the Goddess of Death." He was dead wrong, of course, for as Ovid noted, once he got his mind off sex, autumn is cum formossisimus annus - "the fairest season of the year." Had he lived a little later, Horace might have found out from the U.S. Census Bureau that the death rate is usually lower in autumn than in winter and spring. Why? Science doesn't know, but it is quite possible that the will to live is stronger in the fall. Conversely, the will to mayhem weakens: nobody has ever worried about a Long Hot Autumn.

So autumn is a blatantly vital season, contrary to the allegations of sorrowful poets who misconstrue the message of dying leaves. A more realistic poet, Archibald MacLeish, says that "Autumn is the American season. In Europe the leaves turn yellow or brown and fall. Here they take fire on the trees and hang there flaming. Life, too, we think, is capable of taking fire in this country; of creating beauty never seen.'

Autumn is also the authentic season of renewal. Yale Lecturer William Zinsser hit the nail squarely: "The whole notion of New Year's Day as the time of fresh starts and resolutions is false." In truth that time is autumn.

- Frank Trippett

Freshmen in limbo wait for assignments

By Michael Taviss

When the second round of room assignments was handed out yesterday afternoon, 11 women and 62 men received housing. This still leaves 78 members of the class of *82 in Limbo.

In the second round the maximum number of students as-



signed to a dormitory is 14, these being assigned to Bexley and Burton. The minimum number was three, assigned to both Mc-Cormick and New House. There are still spots open in Bexley, East Campus, and Senior House. The East Campus and Senior House spaces are female.

The most extreme change in first choice applications were those for Bexley. The same

As the dorm assignments were given out freshmen crowded around anxiously, hoping that they had received their first choice dorm and would not be in limbo for part of the week. (Photo by Steve Solnick)

number of students asked for assignments in Bexley the second time around as did originally. This is attributed to the tours given of the dorm by Housemasters Jerome and Maggie Lettvin. Several students took these tours and after seeing the dorm disregarded the rumours they had heard about it. Any students interested in finding out more about Bexley should contact one of the Lettvins.

Also as of yesterday afternoon the fraternities were still looking for about 55 freshmen to pledge them. It is not too late for interested freshmen to look at frats.

Those freshmen who have been

reassigned to Limbo had varying attitudes about their situation. Al Bestul '82 said, "I expected it. The odds were against me." Andy Goldberg '82 offered a one word rejoinder that mirrored many people's feelings.

Some of the six women still in Limbo were very upset over the fact that it may not be possible to get a room in McCormick. Associate Dean for Student Affairs in Charge of Housing Robert Sherwood said,"No guarantees were given to anybody that they would get single sex housing. We want to treat everybody exactly the same. We're not insensitive to other people's feelings [but] we

want to avoid favoritism."

Concerning the female students he said, "We are encouraging them to look into coed houses. WILG is another option. We'll consider contingency plans on Friday but only if we need to." He and Acting Dean of Student Affairs Robert Hallman both agreed that if the number of women at MITcontinues to increase some plans will have to be made to accomodate them. Halfman commented, though, that these plans depend on circumstances. "Ten years ago," ĥe said, "Very few women would consider coed housing. Now look at the situation.'

Core subjects explained to

By Jordana Hollander

To help freshmen confused by the numerous variants to the General Institute Requirements, the physics, mathematics, and chemistry departments held their annual core orientation yesterday morning.

The Institute requires two terms of physics, two terms of calculus, and one term of chemistry or biology. The way these requirements can be filled, however, can become quite complex.

Professor of Physics French introduced the freshman physics courses, which provide fewer alternatives than the other core subjects. Most students will be taking the usual 8.01-8.02 sequence this year, but for those who have a strong mathematical background, the physics with

also available.

Freshmen who have decided they like biology or are pre-meds could also choose to take the 8.013-8.023 sequence which stresses the relation of physics to the biological sciences. Finally, for those students who, after a term of one of the other physics courses, decide that they are not going any further in the subject, there will be a "physics for poets' course offered spring term, namely 8.021

Following this relatively straightforward presentation, Professor of Mathematics Arthur Mattuck introduced the various methods of satisfying the Institute's calculus requirement. Despite the claims of the registrar's office there is no such thing as 18.01. The mathematics department has divided this

calculus courses 8.012-8.022 are course into 18.01A, B, and C.

The normal freshman calculus sequence is 18.01-18.02A spread over two terms. For those who have had high school calculus 18.01B covers the first term of calculus except for the first three weeks. An entrance exam is mandatory for this class and the freshmen who take 18.01B continue in one of the sequences since there is no 18.02B. The 18.01-18.02C sequence is an accelerated version of the regular calculus sequence, which goes through the material covered in 18.01A and the first half of 18.02A in the first term. The second half of 18.02C is taught in the Independent Activities Period in January, as well as in the spring term.

This year a new alternative has been introduced, or rather reintroduced, because it was offered ten years ago. The 18.012-

18.022 sequence is calculus with theory, where the emphasis is on proving the basic theorems of calculus rigorously rather than on practical applications. For those students who do like the practical aspects of calculus 18.001-18.002, otherwise known as calculus for engineers, is offered. For those who want both an accelerated and practical course there is 18 001-18.002E, which goes as quickly as 18.01-18.02C, but covers the material given in 18.001-18.002.

After this tangle of mathematics courses with its subtle shadings the presentation by Dean Alberty on the chemistry/biology requirement proved much easier to follow. Basically there is a choice between one biology course, 7.01 (General Biology), and four chemistry courses. The Chemistry course a freshman chooses depends on his interests and background. For those with a weak high school background 5.40 (General Chemistry), is suggested, while those with a strong mathematical background might take 5.60 (Chemical Equilibrium). The most popular chemistry course offered is 5.41 Introduction to Structure, Bonding, and Mechanism), for most freshmen with some high school*ehemistry and is required for pre-meds. Finally for those students interested in electronics and engineering there is 3.091, Introduction to Solid State Chemistry.

Between these outlines the floor was open to questions from freshmen. Most questions dealt with what a freshman should take if he has received credit through testing or at other institutions or with what the panel of professors would recommend in individual

Freshmen get dorm rooms

By Gordon Haff

Decisions, decisions, decisions, and then one must wait for chance to run its course. That was Tuesday for a prospective dormitory resident.

The distribution of dormitory preference cards was only the beginning. Freshmen soon learned that the little green card was merely a license which permitted them to agonize over more choices.

It was a busy day for freshmen. After fighting the hordes poised in front of the Sala de Puerto Rico, still to come would be advisor meetings, dorm floor or entry assignments (in some cases),

and finally room assignments. 1 wandered back to Burton after taking some pictures of the advisor meetings. Preparations were underway for the separate floor presentations. Each dorm has a unique system for freshman floor and/or room assignments. Burton's consists of everyone gathering in the dining hall where each floor gives a skit or talk which somehow depicts the atmosphere of the floor. The freshmen are then given a chance' to talk with the upperclassmen on the different floors.

While the freshmen were fed the last of their free meals, the floor assignments committee hacked away in the housemaster's suite. At one point, someone came out to inform a few freshmen that they had escaped Institute limbo only to end up in

dorm limbo. Finally, after close to two hours of nervous waiting, the committee solved their problems and the results were announced. The freshmen went up to their respective floors. On mine, we proceeded to shower one of our upperclass residents, who had been doing room assignments, "for her excellent job", (not to mention for taking so long).

One floor member came back with a quarter keg. Everyone was tired but in a good mood. We partied until fairly late. The upperclassmen tried to get to know the freshmen and vice-versa. At last, it was all over. After all, the dozen people just assigned to our floor were what we had been working for in the past week.

Freshman alert: beware of 26-100

By Bob Wasserman

Editor's note: This column is the opinion of its author, the Editor in Chief of The Tech, and is not the opinion of the staff or the newspaper as

R/O week is beginning to wind down, and it is time for freshmen to think ahead to the start of classes next week. Registration material for fall term is due today, and while hours and hours of advice have been given on making a choice of a living group, there are a few things every newcomer to MIT should know about freshman classes.

First, MIT boasts of a low student-faculty ratio, but most of these figures are derived from senior seminars with three students and the hordes of research associate "faculty". Freshman year, however, is filled with large lecture classes of important core subjects.

Any advice on academics a freshman receives comes from either advisors and associate advisors or the Freshman Handbook, which most

something

freshmen read over the summer and only glance at in the fall. Everywhere are words of wisdom about problem sets and passing grades, but freshmen are not warned of the real bane

of their existence: Room 26-100. If a freshman plays it right he can schedule three or four classes in this hall, got to movies there in the room all weekend, and if overcrowding gets any worse, some future freshmen may even have to live there.

The chemistry/biology requirement is the most misused part of a freshman's curriculum. Only one semester of these subjects is required and by MIT and a number of different courses is offered by several departments. Unfortunately, most freshmen take 5.41 first semester, the worst mistake they could make. This course overflows the lecture hall, is stocked with pre-meds who drop the course at the first sign of a B, and 5.41 loses all continuity with a mid-semester change of lecturers. As far as subject matter goes, the title (yes, Virginia, courses here really do have titles): "Introduction to Structure, Bonding, and Mechanism" doesn't even contain the word "Chemistry."s.

The other Chemistry/Biology options deserve more attention. The Materials Science offering, 3.091, is excellently and interestingly taught, and "solid state" chemistry is not about TV sets and electronics but rather about materials chemistry and is important in many fields of engineering and science. MIT students tend to shy away from any courses which bear a "General" label, but 5.40 General Chemistry is a fine course and "in no way compromises one's ability to become a chemistry major", to quote the Freshman Handbook. Nor is 7.01, General Biology, so difficult a course that a freshman must wait until Sophomore year to take it: remember, freshman year is pass/fail.

Physics is a full year requirement, featuring the 8.01-02 Physics sequence. 8.01 is even more notorious than 5.41, although there are generally smaller lectures due to two sections. Lectures are just as impersonal, though, and each section manages to fill up most of the 600-seat 26-100. 8.01 also switches lecturers in mid-stride, and the Physics Department tries its best to find two professors with as dissimilar teaching styles as possible.

There are fewer and less varied alternatives for two semesters of Physics than there are for only one term of the Chemistry option. 8.012 features "more work than average during the first third of the term", according to the *Handbook*, and this load usually dumps half of the class into 8.01. This reduces 8.012 to a good size for its lectures, but balloons 8.01 to an even larger size. 8.013-23 is an interesting, somewhat popular sequence, and should be considered by freshmen who are premed or biochemistry freaks. Unbelievably, the best instructed Physics course, 8.011, is not being offered this fall, although its follow-up 8.021. will be offered in the spring. 8.021 is no "Physics for Poets" course, and is probably suitable and recommendable for a number of freshmen who don't consider it. The cancellation of 8.011 is unfortunate, for the Physics Department is reducing its introductory options when it should be expanding them. The Calculus courses for freshmen are somewhat more acceptable, due to different levels and options. Calculus 18.01 now has A, B, and C options, and there are calculus courses with applied emphasis, 18.001-2, and a theoretical approach in a new series 18.012-022. Prof. George Thomas' retirement as an 18.01-2 lecturer is sad, but the rest of the faculty is fine. The real problem in the department is 18.03, which is packed with freshmen and upperclassmen in the spring term. Many freshmen rush to finish the first year of Calculus before February to take 18.03 second term, and some even take it concurrently with 18.02. The big attraction presumably is Prof. Arthur Mattuck, who is good although a little difficult, but taking this course could wait until fall.

All freshmen should choose their courses carefully. Freshmen should avoid all excessively large lecture sections.

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Famous hacks of MIT's past

By Michael Taviss

Some hacks, such as the standard Hallowe'en one of dropping a pumpkin from the top of the Green building, gain fame through repetition.

Dropping things from high places crops up many times as the central theme in hacks. Most people just drop and/or throw rolls of toilet paper or bags of water from a roof, but the granddaddy of all drop hacks is the annual Baker House Piano Drop. This custom is exactly what it sounds dropping a piane from the roof of Baker House.

The piano drop was first enacted in 1972. It was conceived by a Baker resident, Charles Bruno '74, who wanted to bring back the grand old hacks of the past. In honor of him a new unit of volume was created: the bruno. One bruno is equal to the sound of a piano hitting pavement after a six-story fall.

Baker House is the source of several other well-known hacks. One is the annual Baker coffin stuff, where as many people as possible are squeezed into a small single in Baker House appropriately known as a coffin. The number of people that can fit into a coffin varies from year to year, but it is usually in excess of a hundred.

Another famous Baker hack was the attack of a Gray Line tourist bus. These buses, filled with gawking tourists, drive through the campus regularly. This annoyed enough Bakerites, whose dormitory is a part of the tour, that on Open House, April 1976, several of them, dressed in their weirdest costumes, waylaid and "attacked" one of these buses in the finest stagecoach robbery tràdition.

Not that Baker House has a monopoly on hacks. One of the most famous MIT hacks was

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MUSIC SECTION needs people to put up posters. \$3.25/hour. Work your own hours. Contact Jan or Bonnie 253-2906 or 253-3210.

Dependable person(s) to do distribution of The Tech. Approximately 8am-10am Tuesday and/or Friday mornings. Good Pay. Car useful, not needed. Call Lee x3-1541.

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perpetrated by Lambda Chi Alpha residents, and has since generated the Smoot legend, I refer, of course, to the marking of the length of Harvard Bridge with the unit of measurement called a

These are only a few of the numerous hacks that have occurred at MIT over the years. What new hacks we will be witness to is anyone's guess.



One of the favorite nacks at Baker, and one of the most famous on campus, is the Baker piano drop. One result of this hack was a new measure of volume—the bruno (Photo courtesy of Technique)

smoot.

A smoot is approximately 5'6" in length, and thus the bridge is 364.4 smoots and one ear long. The original marking was done in 1958. Oliver Smoot '62, and his fellow freshman pledges of the year were ordered to mark the bridge, and Smoot was chosen as being a convenient height to be used as ruler. The pledges were going to use a piece of string to set off the distance, but an brother came along to watch the work and made sure that Smoot was actually carried across the bridge and set down 365 times to mark each unit of distance. Since that time each year's LCA pledges have continued the tradition by repainting the smoots.

PART TIME JOB

Gnomon Copy is seeking Xerox machine operators. Starting pay is \$3.10/hr. Hours available to suit your schedule, including Midnight-8am. Near MIT. owned by MIT grads, you will be working with students like yourself. This is a much better job than handling food, and we are good people to work for. Dial "C-O-U-R-I-E-R" and ask for Tom Scarnatti.

FRESHMEN AND INCOMING GRADUATE STUDENTS:

THE MIT SYMPHONY

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During the hectic time of Registration, take time out for



Monday, September 11, Kresge Plaza

Tuesday, September 12, 8:00 p.m. MIT Chapel Sponsored by MIT Baptist Student Fellowship

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at pritchett lounge

located on the second floor of walker memorial

sept. 8-15 purchase a pizza and get a large coke free

mon-fri 11:30am-mid. sat & sun 9:00am-mid.

newsroundup

World

Computer wins — The chess match between chess master David Levy of England and the Chess 4.6 computer at Northwestern University in Toronto has ended with surprising results. David Levy won the match with 3 wins, one loss, and a draw. This is the first time that a human chess master has ever been beaten by a computer in a serious chess game.

Local

Carless streets opened — The Downtown Crossing project began Tuesday with the streets in Boston's main downtown shopping district being closed to all except pedestrian traffic. Boston Traffic Commissioner Emily Lloyd said that it will take a while for people to get used to the change but that it was going more smoothly than expected.

Campus

Blood drive collects 117 pints — The Technology Community Association began its first blood drive of the year yesterday and collected 117 pints of blood from the students and faculty. It hopes to collect over 200 pints before the drive ends tomorrow evening. The blood will supply hospitals, depleted after the accidents of the Labor Day weekend. The drive will be held from 9:45 to 3:30 tomorrow on the fourth floor of the Student Center.

Sports

Red Sox lose again — The Baltimore Orioles beat the Red Sox 4-1 Tuesday night. Coupled with a Yankee win, this cuts the Red Sox' lead to only four games.

— Kent Pitman and Jordana Hollander

sssss Part Time-Work! sssss

Flexible Hours
Apply at:
Student Center Dining Service
on Mon. Sept 11
(Registration Day)
at 7:00 p.m.
Behind Twenty Chimneys

Questions? Call Eddie Lui dl-7326



Thelech

The Tech Champagne & Sandwiches Party Thursday Night, September 7, 1978 Room W20-483 MIT Student Center

ATTENTION SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING MAJORS!

The Air Force has openings for young men and women majoring in selected science and engineering fields. Like Aeronautical, Aerospace. General and Electrical Engineering, Mathematics. Physics and Computer Technology.

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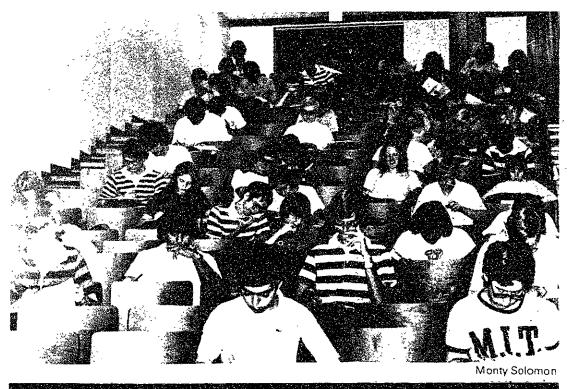
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The Daily Cnosiufno



FRIDAY

9am-noon Enlistment for Air Force ROTC Students in 16-134.

10am Trip to Nantasket Beach Amusment Park leaves from the TCA office (W20-450).

11am-3pm Dean for Student Affairs (DSA) Office Open House in 7-133.

12noon-5pm R/O Center open. 12noon-2pm Air Force ROTC picnic in

Compton Court (behind Bldg. 20). 1:30-4:30pm Freshman Treasure Hunt starts from the Student Center steps. Living group teams encouraged (up to 6

freshmen and I upperclassman per

team).
1:30pm Trip to New England Aquarium leaves from the TCA office (W20-450). Admission:\$2.50.

2-4pm ESG One shot seminar, "Slides and Talk on Antarctica," room 24-612.

2pm Last permanent dormitory assignments available in the R/O center.

3-4pm Tours of MIT for parents and freshmen

leave the lobby of Bldg. 7.

4pm Final Transfer Students' Get-together in Private Dining Room #3, Student

Center. 4:30-7pm BSU cookout in court by the Alumni Pool.

6pm ESG Pizza making party (24-612). Come up and help us make and eat creative pizzas!

6pm Campus Crusade for Christ spaghetti dinner in room 37-252.

7pm, 10pm LSC movie, *Rocky*, in Kresge. Free for everyone.

7pm United Christian Fellowship (IVCF) regular meeting. Prayer, praise, Bible study, and singing in room 1-236.

7:30pm Freshmen are invited to attend the 1st annual SIPB Campus Computer Tour. Presentations of current resources, equipment, and services will be given at several of MIT's major computer facilities. Small groups will leave from room 6-120. For more info., call x3-7788.

7:30pm MIT Arab Student Club presents Mideastern Folklore and Dancing in 10-250.

8pm Baltroom Dance Club dance party in the Sala de Puerto Rico. Instruction provided, no partner or experience necessary. Come have a swinging time.

time.
All evening: MacGregor Block Party.

THURSDAY

All day: Advisor meetings.

All day: International Student Open House in the Bush room, 10-105.

9am-4pm Freshman Registration material DUE in the R/O Center.

9am-9pm R/O Center open.

9am-12noon Entrance Exam for 18.01B, and Advanced Standing Exams for 18.01 and 18.02 for those with conflicts on Tuesday, in room 2-102.

9am-3pm Army ROTC Open House in 20E-126, 9:45am-3:30pm TCA-Red Cross Blood Drive in Student Center room 491.

Ham Subway Tour leaves from TCA office.

Ipm Tour of Boston for women leaves from
Student Center. Approximately three

2pm Still more permanent dormitory assignments in the R/O Center.

2pm-4pm Physics Department Open House for freshmen in 4-339.

Thursday 9-7 cancellation

3-5pm The Women's Athletic Tea originally scheduled for this time has been postponed until sometime later this month.

3:30pm Trip to Top of Hancock leaves from TCA Office.

6pm-midnight Harbor in Private Dining Room #2, Student Center third floor.

7-9:30pm Athletic Midway in Rockwell Cage.
7-10pm Activities Midway in duPont Gymnasium.
8pm and 9:30pm The Shakespeare Ensemble
presents scenes from Shakespeare,
Ibsen, Williams, and Pinter. MIT
Chapel. Discussion afterwards. Info:
x3-2903.

INFORMATION

7.01, General Biology will be offered during both the fall and spring terms.

Advanced Standing Exams for students who have been notified of such:

Sept 7, Thurs., 9am-12pm: 8.02 in room 16-310.

Sept 7, Thurs., 1:30-4:30pm: 14.002 in room 16-310.

21 S23 lecture will meet Mondays from 3-4:30pm in the Music Library and recitation will meet Thursdays from 2-3:30pm in 14N-431 as listed in the class schedules.

SEM 031, not listed in the class schedules, will meet Wednesdays from 1-3pm in room 4-154.

The following seminars have been cancelled: 2 S15, 6 S13, 12 S17, 21 S29

The following seminars still have space available: 1 S14, 1 S15, 3 S10, 3 S14, 11 S27, 13 S03, 13 S08, 13 S12, 16 S08, 17 S13, 19 S01, 20 S02, 20 S29, 20 S30, 20 S35, 21 S24, 22 S05, EN 1, SEM 012, SEM 018, SEM 022, SEM 030, SEM 031, SEM 037, DL 5.

ODDS AND ENDS

In emergency dial 100 from any MIT phone.

Other phone numbers: R/O Center: x3-4551, x3-4552 (2-3-4551, 2-3-4552 from dormline, (617)-253-4551, (617)-253-4552 from outside), Office of Freshman Advising (OFA): x3-6771, and Campus Patrol: x3-1212.

The Graduate Information Center in the Graduate School Office, room 3-136, will be open through Friday from 9am to 5pm. Phone: x3-2197.

Harbor is a place to sit down, relax, and talk to people who have the time (and aren't trying to get you to live with them). We're located in Private Dining Room number 2, on the third floor of the Student Center. We'll be open until midnight all week. Drop by. We'd be glad to see you.

Come meet with people from the Christian groups on campus. Help in finding a Christian roommate. Room 7-106, 9am-5:30pm.

An informal group is being organized for students interested in visual arts. Varied, interesting monthly activities. For more information, contact the ArtFacts Coordinator, Committee on the Visual Arts, Room 7-145, x3-4400.

Presently there is an extreme shortage of off-campus housing in the Cambridge and greater Boston areas. Incoming students, single or married, in need of housing are urged to go to the Off-Campus Housing Service, E18-301, for information concerning roommate listings and apartment rentals. Listings are updated daily and free telephone service is available for local calls concerning the listings.

All baggage MUST be removed from the baggage room (W20-473) by Friday.

Come browse through Christian books at the Christian book table in Building 10 lobby from 10am-2pm.

The Financial Aid Office will be open today and tomorrow. Freshmen are encouraged to drop by. If you anticipate any need to visit the office, please come by before registration day.

Come visit the ESG Information Table in the Student Center, Ham-4pm.

All information for *The Daily Confusion* should be submitted at *The Tech's* newsroom (W20-483) by 2pm the day preceding the publication date.

Experimental Study Group Open House, 9am-9pm in room 24-612. Drop by and visit us — we provide refreshments, company, and information about ESG.

The Unix computer system (used in 6.031) will be open for use for the rest of R/O week. If you have never used a computer before, this is your chance to play such games as Adventure, Star Trek, and Jotto. If you wish to try programming, we have BASIC, algol, lisp, and teco. Stop by room 38-354 and see Jeff Schiller some afternoon this week. Open daily 12noon-11pm with someone on duty 12noon-3pm and 7-9pm.

Register for MIT Student Art Association classes through September 15. Drawing, claywork, photography, calligraphy, Chinese brush painting, stained glass, etching. Student Center room 429 1-5pm.



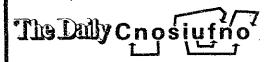
EATING

Lobdell will be open Tuesday through Friday: breakfast from 7:30-10:30am, lunch from 11am-2pm, and supper from 5-7pm.

Twenty Chimneys: Tuesday through Friday: Salad bar from 11:30am-1:30pm.

Pritchett Lounge(2nd floor Walker) will

Pritchett Lounge(2nd floor Walker) will be open Tuesday through Friday from 5pm to midnight.



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